

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of:

PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT	)	
FILING OF THE UNION LIGHT,	)	CASE NO. 7268-BB
HEAT AND POWER COMPANY	)	

O R D E R

On April 13, 1979, the Commission issued its Order in Case No. 7268, approving certain rates and providing under certain conditions for adjustment of such rates when the wholesale cost of gas is increased or a refund is received under the provisions of the gas cost adjustment set forth therein.

On December 9, 1981, the Union Light, Heat and Power Company ("Union") notified the Commission that its wholesale cost of gas would be increased by its supplier, Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation ("Transmission") effective January 1, 1982.

On December 1, 1981, Transmission filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") a rate increase to become effective January 1, 1982. The Commission has no jurisdiction in that case.

Union's notice of December 9, 1981, set out certain revisions in rates which Union proposed to place in effect, said rates being designed to increase the cost of natural gas of its supplier in the amount of \$770,412.

On November 9, 1978, the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 was signed into law, which established significantly higher rates for producers of certain categories of natural gas. This federal legislation has resulted in higher gas costs to interstate pipeline companies serving the various gas consuming states, including Kentucky. Once the FERC approves the right of these interstate transmission companies to pass this increased cost on to its distribution company customers, state commissions must, in turn, pass on the matter of interstate distributors recovering their increased cost of gas by adjusting their basic rates to their customers.

After reviewing this evidence of record and being advised, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that:

(1) The Commission has long stated (in writing to FERC) its opposition to the procedures and regulations used by the FERC in approving these supplier increases. We continue to be opposed and are continuing to seek alternative ways to overcome the regulatory inequities which have such a direct impact on the retail customers.

(2) The FERC approval of a wholesale rate increase to a Kentucky gas retailer requires approval by the Commission of rates that will permit the Kentucky utility to adjust its customer charges to reflect the added purchase cost, or alternately the

utility must absorb the added cost. We are of the opinion that failure to allow this increase to be passed through to its retail consumers on a timely basis would be unjust to the Company and would ultimately result in higher rates to their consumers in any event.

(3) When the FERC "accepts" Transmission's filing, Transmission will begin charging Union the new rates. This Order cannot be implemented until and unless this occurs.

(4) Union's supplier, Transmission, has filed with the FERC for increased rates to become effective January 1, 1982.

(5) This increase reflects Transmission's rates as filed with FERC on December 1, 1981, to be effective January 1, 1982.

(6) The Commission should allow Union to place into effect, subject to refund, the rates in Appendix A as soon as Transmission's filing is "accepted" by FERC.

(7) Union's adjustment in rates under the purchased gas adjustment clause approved by this Commission in its Order in Case No. 7268, dated April 13, 1979, is fair, just and reasonable, in the public interest and should be effective with gas supplied on and after the date the increased cost of wholesale gas becomes effective.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that said purchased gas adjustment sought by Union and adjusted as aforesaid be and is hereby approved to be effective subject to refund, with gas supplied on and after the date the increased cost of wholesale gas becomes effective ("acceptance" by FERC), as in Appendix A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Union shall maintain its record in such manner as will enable it, or the Commission, or any of its customers to determine the amount to be refunded and to whom due in the event a refund is ordered by the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for the purpose of the future application of the gas cost adjustment clause of Union the average cost shall be:

	<u>Per Mcf</u>
Firm Sales	3.8867
Off-peak	3.6069

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the information furnished this Commission by Union on December 9, 1981, constitutes full compliance with the Commission's Order in Case No. 7268, and any other information ordinarily required to be filed under the Commission's regulations is hereby waived.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within 30 days after the date the increased cost of wholesale gas becomes effective Union shall file with this Commission its revised tariff sheets setting out the rates approved herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 6th day of January, 1982.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Marlin M. Cook  
For the Commission

ATTEST:

Secretary

## APPENDIX A

### APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 7268-BB DATED JANUARY 6, 1982

The following rates are prescribed for the customers in the area served by the Union Light, Heat and Power Company. All other rates and charges not specifically mentioned herein shall remain the same as those in effect under the authority of the Commission prior to the date of this Order.

#### RATES GS

##### Net Monthly Bill

	<u>P.G.A.*</u>	<u>Rate</u>
First 1,000 cubic feet at 16.35¢		60.90¢ per 100 cubic feet
Next 1,000 cubic feet at 16.35¢		48.32¢ per 100 cubic feet
Next 4,000 cubic feet at 16.35¢		45.40¢ per 100 cubic feet
Next 144,000 cubic feet at 16.35¢		44.42¢ per 100 cubic feet
Additional cubic feet at 16.35¢		43.76¢ per 100 cubic feet

##### Special Contract Gas Rates

<u>Off-peak Rate</u>	<u>PGA</u>	<u>Rate</u>
All Consumption	17.83¢	41.13¢ per 100 cubic feet
<u>Firm Rate</u>		
All Consumption	16.35¢ *	41.89¢ per 100 cubic feet

\* Reflects Firm Refunding Rate of 1.88¢ as approved in  
Case No. 7268-Y